



January 5, 2005

Dear Parents:

I am very pleased to lend my support to the statewide Tennessee Summer Reading Program for children. This program has been developed and distributed by the Tennessee State Library and Archives, a division of the Secretary of State's office. I hope that you and your family will join your local community library staff in sharing the wonderful opportunities available through this annual event.

As you know, I am very interested in the successful pursuit of reading for Tennessee's children. It is essential that we all work to overcome insufficient reading skills. Reading habits that are attained during early childhood will help Tennessee to be competitive, not only within our state, but also in a global economy. Additionally, reading is fundamental to the true understanding of freedom and civic responsibility.

The Summer Reading Program for children is designed to promote reading skills throughout the summer months when most children are not in school. Through local programming and the promotion of exciting reading opportunities, our public libraries provide the ideal setting for fun as well as continuing education during the vacation period. The Summer Reading Program also provides a great opportunity for children to interact with other children that they otherwise would not see during the summer.

The Summer Reading theme this year is "Be Major League: READ". Please join me in urging your children to develop sound reading skills at an early age. Let's all join the exciting adventure of lifelong learning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Bredezen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "P" and "B".

Phil Bredezen



January 5, 2005

Dear Librarian:

I am pleased to announce that the Tennessee State Library and Archives, a division of the Tennessee Department of State, is once again sponsoring the statewide Summer Reading Program for children. This program is designed to improve reading skills and encourage the joy of reading.

This year's theme is "Be Major League: READ" and what a wonderful time these readers will have! In addition to learning about sports and activities around the world, the children will have an opportunity to read and learn along with others in the community. As librarians, you are fortunate to be working with such an exciting group at such an exciting time. Reading is fundamental to the pursuit of life's goals as well as the true understanding of freedom and civic responsibility.

I join the Tennessee State Library and Archives staff and the Regional Library System in wishing you the greatest summer yet, and I want to thank you all for your continued interest in the improvement of the libraries in your communities.

Sincerely,


Riley C. Darnell